

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

I.—ROOSTS OF FLYING FOX.

While going through the past volumes of the *Journal*, I came across Mr. McCann's very instructive article on the Flying Fox (*Pteropus giganteus* Brunn), *J.B.N.H.S.*, vol. xxxvii, No. 1, p. 143. Among other things, he has recorded some colonies of this animal. In this connection, the undernoted information may be found useful.

(1) About 56 miles north of Ahmedabad, there is a town called Unjha (a Railway Station) in North Gujerat. On the outskirts of it, there are several Tamarind trees, which have been the abode of the Flying Fox for at least the last 30 years. The trees stand within the town, and nearby is a big tank, a scene of bustle and noise throughout the day. Still the bats occupy the trees year in and year out undisturbed. I have no knowledge whether the same animals have been living there or whether new-comers are added to the colony from time to time. But this much is certain, viz., that these trees are always occupied.

One thing in this connection puzzles me: the source of their food supply. There are no orchards here, nor are there any fruit-bearing trees. The whole country-side is principally an agricultural tract, interspersed with *Acacia* trees.

(2) Another colony I have found right in the city of Ahmedabad. There are several Tamarind trees in front of the Victoria Gardens, at the foot of the Ellis Bridge. Until a few years ago, one of these trees was the permanent residence of Flying Fox. I first saw them there in 1914 when I came to Ahmedabad. I cannot say how long they had occupied this tree previous to 1914. It took all the ingenuity of the municipal staff to remove them from their quarters. This was done in 1932, yet for eighteen years, to my knowledge—and how long before, I do not know—the bats lived in the heart of a big city, where noisy traffic passed under them throughout the day.

It is interesting to record that in an adjacent tree—also a Tamarind—there was a colony of Egrets living apparently on good terms with the bats. When the Flying Foxes were forced to vacate their home (the Egrets also went: where I cannot say). About a couple of hundred yards north of the Victoria Gardens, there are Government buildings occupied by the Court of the City First Class Magistrate. There are several trees in the compound

of this court house, out of which eight are at present occupied by Flying Foxes. They comprise:

१. पीपळो Pipal tree: *Ficus religiosa*.
 ,, पीपळ Pipal tree: *F. tsiela*.
 ,, लीमडो Nim tree: *Azadirachta indica*.
 ,, अरडू मो Heaven's tree: *Ailanthus excelsa*.

At Patan (North Gujerat), several trees—mostly Tamarind and Banyan—have been the abode of Flying Foxes for about 25 years.

Hibernation.—It is believed that the Indian Bats hibernate. This is not altogether correct—especially for North Gujerat bats. During the last three months I have daily found the cheerful Indian Pipistrelle (*V. abramus*) hawking insects from early evening in company with their inseparable friends—the swallows. But I thought that the case of the Flying Fox was different. I had, during December and January, several times visited the colony mentioned under item 2 above—as late as 11 p.m. and as early as 5 a.m. The animals were still there, wrapped up in their shrouds and sleeping undisturbed. They never appeared to leave the place nor were found arriving as they did in summer. Hence I concluded that at least these fruit-eating bats did hibernate in North Gujerat.

Now I find I was mistaken in this belief. Because, for the last six days, I see Flying Fox passing my window daily in the evening, going from west to east. They come incessantly for about thirty minutes in large numbers. Once I counted up to 200 and then lost the count. Whence they came and where they were going I cannot say. Also I am not in a position to say that they were the same as No. 2 colony above. But this at least shows that Flying Fox also comes out in winter.

NAVO VAS, DANAPITH,

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II.—MELANISM IN WILD DOGS.

Mr. V. G. Darrington, I.F.S., the District Forest Officer, Coimbatore North, saw a black wild dog at Gaddesal, in the North Coimbatore Division, on the 11th instant. With the exception of a white tip to its tail the dog appeared to be completely black and was unmistakably a wild dog. I wonder if an instance of such complete melanism in a wild dog has been recorded before.

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